

INTERNAL USE ONLY

16 February 1978


MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Reaction to the NID by Michel Oksenberg,  
NSC/China

1. On 16 February I talked to Oksenberg about his use of the NID. He said he reads it every day. How much he reads of the NID does depend on his time. He always, however, closely reads everything printed on China. He said he uses the NID to brief Brzezinski. He clips out good pieces, xeroxes them and sends them to Brzezinski with his comments.

2. Mike said he likes the newspaper format because it gives him a range of choices. He says a bulletin type presentation would not be as convenient. He said he likes the analyses but he would prefer more "sociological" analyses. For instance, he likes such pieces as deal with Sadat's perceptions of negotiating with Israel, or an analysis of the parties and social forces of a country on the eve of an election.

3. Mike said that with the deterioration of foreign reporting in The Washington Post and The New York Times the NID value has become even greater. It has become in effect his newspaper of world events (his words). He likes particularly the lead paragraphs. He says these are often good and frequently entice a reader to read the whole piece.

  
James R. Lilley  
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for China

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